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*Opening  
5/15/2007*

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LAND USE INFORMATION (R614-301-410)

Deseret-Beehive-Little Dove Mines are conglomerated into a single surface mining complex located in a dry wash tributary to Grimes Wash. Mining has its beginning about 1940 and has grown incrementally through the years. No information on production is available (See Page 3-1). Land use prior to mining was grazing and wildlife (local land users).

The vegetation communities adjacent to the disturbed area are classified as pinyon-juniper along the steep eroded sandstone ledges. Lower elevations are dominated by desert saltbush in Chapeta soils and Mancos shales (see Soil Information).

Topography of the general area dictated its uses; i.e., the lower valleys provided year-round farming and ranching and the higher sediments of the Wasatch Plateau are utilized for summer grazing as it is today.

Currently on the BLM lands in the permit area the livestock use is spring grazing with cattle on the benches (April 1 - June 10). The East Grimes and West Grimes allotments, divided east of Danish Bench, are stocked at 19.4 acres/AUM and 16 acres/AUM for a total of 317 and 263 AUM's respectively. These allotments are judged in fair condition with a downward trend (BLM letter, 1982).

Very little grazing by cattle occurs on the steep slopes above the benches because of the difficult access and scarcity of forage.

The grazing of the USFS lands is confined to East

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Mountain under an approved rest rotation system (USFS, 1979).

Nine permittees graze 486 cattle from June 21 to September 10 for a total of 1,296 AUM's. The range condition is judged good with a static to upward trend. The stocking rate is 11 acres/AUM. All of the cattle use is restricted to the upper slopes and top of East Mountain.

Elk use East Mountain for summer range but winter on the western slopes in the Cottonwood Creek drainaga. Mule deer also summer on the mountain and winter on the benches and slopes of the southern and eastern portion of East Mountain from the mouth of Cottonwood Creek around to Rilda Canyon in the Huntington Creek drainage. These ranges are rated as high priority winter range by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The US Forest Service has identified the following uses: big game winter range, mining and mineral development and general rangeland (incl. timber and forage). (LRMP 1986) Critical areas are sensitive areas within high priority areas required to sustain and perpetuate deer during crucial periods of their life cycle. Current herd management levels are one deer/20 acres of winter range (UDWR, 1982)(Map 2-18).

The total forage productivity of the pinyon-juniper range on the benches is 100-324 lbs./acre, dry weight. The pinyon-juniper range on the rockland soils of the steep slopes is lower, estimated at 25-100 lbs./acre, dry weight. The desert shrub range productivity is 100-285 lbs./acre, dry weight. See Vegetation section for productivity details.

The BLM also recognizes the sand and gravel resources

on these benches and has designated specific areas for excavation and processing to aid in community expansion. The BLM visual resource management system rates the benches as Class IV and the cliff faces as Class III. Both of these classifications allow for modification of the land through man's activities. The USFS also rates the south end of East Mountain as modification or partial retention, a scenic value similar to BLM's Class IV and III respectively.

The Land Use Plan for the Wasatch Plateau designates no recreation development or timber sales on East Mountain but does specify the improvement of big game range and protection of watersheds. The south end of the mountain is not in a known oil or gas field and the reserve potential is judged as low.

#### REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management June 1979. San Rafael Unit Resource Analysis and Management Framework Plan. Price, Utah.

Emery County Zoning Plat Books. Castle Dale, Utah. US Forest Service May 1979. Land Management Plan Ferron-Price Planning Unit. Manti-LaSal National Forest. Price, Utah.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources May 1982. Utah Big Game Investigations and Management Recommendations 1981-1982. Publication #82.3.

Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan 1986.

See land use map in the map section (2-17).

- A-1      Agricultural Zone, contains the primary farming areas of the county.
- RA-1     Residential-Agricultural Zone, this is the area with the communities and the adjacent or intermixed agricultural lands.
- M&G-1    Mining and Grazing Zone, all of the county lands outside of the communities, farming areas and forest

service boundary.

- I-1 Industrial Zone, specific areas near communities and highways reserved for industrial development.
- Ce-1 Critical Environmental Zone, general designation for all private lands within the forest boundary.
- Ce-2 Critical Environmental Zone, specific designation for certain land parcels especially those adjacent to recreation sites in the forest.

PRIME FARMLAND INVESTIGATION (R614-302-310)

After investigating all the lands within the permit boundaries of the Des Bee Dove Coal Mine it is determined that these lands do not qualify as "Prime Farmlands" for the following reasons:

1. Historically the lands prior to construction were not used a crop land.
2. The slopes of and surrounding the portal area exceed 10 percent.
3. There is no developed water supply qualifying as an irrigation source.

Following is a negative determination from the US Soil Conservation Service.